



TUBERCULOSIS (TB) & THE *BCG Vaccine*

Can TB germs grow with BCG vaccine?

Yes, thousands of people each year develop TB even though they have had a BCG vaccine.

What is BCG?

BCG stands for Bacillus Calmette-Guerin. The BCG is a vaccination given in many countries to help prevent TB. It is almost never used in the United States.

Why was I given BCG?

BCG was given to lower your risk of developing TB. The BCG vaccine is important for young children who live in countries where there is a lot of TB. It protects them from developing serious forms of TB disease.

Does BCG make my skin test positive?

It can. But if it has been several years since your vaccination or if you come from a country where many people have TB, your positive skin test result is probably from TB, not your BCG.

Can a person with BCG vaccine still get a TB skin test?

Yes, a TB skin test can be done even if you had the BCG vaccine.

Should I tell my doctor when I had BCG?

Yes, and let your doctor know when you had your *last* BCG vaccine.

You may qualify for Medi-Cal benefits. People with TB infection or TB disease may also qualify for TB-Cal. To find out about your eligibility and to request an information packet and application, please call 1-858-514-6885. Collect calls are accepted.